



**Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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09/06/2011 Minutes

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP SPY POND COMMITTEE
SEPTEMBER 6, 2011 MEETING Town Hall Annex, First Floor
Approved October 4, 2011

In attendance: Brad Barber, Bill Eykamp, Joey Glushko, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Dick Terry.

Facilitator: Brad Barber Minutes: Elizabeth Karpati

Next meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6. Town Hall Annex, first floor

- The minutes of the June meeting were accepted as presented.
- Health advisory due to microcystis algae: Bill Eykamp noted that the advisory was posted on June 27 but never lifted when the algae count went down to safe levels. He inquired and was told it would be confusing to have to lift and reinstate the advisory as algae levels changed. He proposed that the committee should write to the Board of Health and ask for details on just how the determination to issue an advisory is made. Dick Terry offered to draft the letter. Jane suggested that the Recreation Department should be involved. (Spy Pond now does not have state certification for swimmability; the Town would have to pay for the tests necessary to get it.)
- Elizabeth Island: Brad participated in a walk-through with Mass Audubon staff. They found various invasives including greenbriar and buckthorn. ALT plans include closing off the present landing spot and making a new one with a path to the top, and leaving the greenbriar alone but opening up a view above it.
- Phragmites has shown enough re-growth to require some treatment (with backpack sprayers only) this fall both in and out of the water. The estimate is for \$1250, which is available. Some paperwork is needed, including releases from the landowners who will be affected - Joey will ask Juliana Rice for material to mail them.
- The waterbodies fund was wiped out by the cost of removing the water chestnuts from the Reservoir, but Town Meeting appropriated more money for FY2012. Volunteers (22) went after the chestnuts in water too shallow for machinery.
- Spy Pond has lots of weeds - curly pondweed and milfoil - and will need treatment next year. We should get an estimate from ACT when it comes for the phragmites treatment. We should also ask for donations to the waterbodies fund.
- Donations will also be needed to put up the murals-on-a-scrim on the Boys & Girls Club, but the project is now stalled because there is no bylaw permitting such murals.
- Town Day, September 17: The art project will be represented at the Vision 2020 table. Displays: Trails Days picture boards with pictures of the Arlington-Belmont crew added. Fertilizer flyer. Pictures of new habitat garden at Reservoir. Ask for contributions to the waterbodies fund. New idea: Ask people, if they had \$100 to spend on Spy Pond improvements, how would they split it among education, recreation, water quality, and improving access?
- The rain garden planned next to the Spy Pond playground will be installed in early October.